

MOUNTAIN IRON MINE
North of the village of
Mountain Iron, Gov't lots 3 & 4
St. Louis County
Minnesota

HAER NO. MN-31

HAER
MINN,
69-MTIRN,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
Minnesota	St. Louis	vicinity of village of Mountain Iron
HISTORIC NAME		HAER NO.
MOUNTAIN IRON MINE		MN-31
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES		HAER MINN,
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL AREAS)		69-MTIR.V, 1-
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	ENGINEER, BUILDER, OR FABRICATOR	
mine opened in 1890	discovered by Merriyy Bros., first operated by Mountain Iron Co.	
SIGNIFICANCE (TECHNOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE)		
It was here that iron ore was first discovered by the legendary Merritt Bros. and this was the first mine to ship ore from the Mesabi Range. The Mesabi Range possessed the world's largest deposits of iron ore, making Minnesota the premier supplier.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)		
open pit mine (first of its type used to mine iron ore)		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
Closed in 1908, reopened during World War II and closed for good in 1956.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
abandoned as a mine and filled with water, it is used as a reservior for the Minntac Taconite plant just north of it.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
Since the Mountain Iron Mine was the first to open on the Mesabi Range, the procedures and methods established here became the prototype for the rest of the range.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS, ETC.)		
Historical report, Minnesota Historical Society files, author & date unknown		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION		DATE
C. Lavoie, Historian, HABS/HAER		Jan. 1989